

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 02318 031539Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7062

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 02318

FOR EUR/EE, JAMES GLENN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN, XH, CGEN, US
SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE.

REF: STATE 81209

1. AMERICAN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL "PRESENCE" IN THE GDR IS DIFFICULT TO FIX DUE TO THE STATUS OF THE CITY OF BERLIN, THE EBB AND FLOW OF PEOPLE BETWEEN ITS EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTORS, AND THE FACT THAT NO RELIABLE TRAVEL STATISTICS ARE AVAILABLE. GIVEN THIS SITUATION (FURTHER DESCRIBED BELOW), IT MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE USEFUL COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

2. IT IS US POLICY THAT BERLIN IS A UNIFIED CITY AND GOVERNED UNDER FOUR POWER CONTROL AND THAT THE SECTOR DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN THE SOVIET SECTOR (EAST BERLIN) AND THE US-UK-FRENCH SECTORS (WEST BERLIN) IS NOT AN INTERNATIONAL BORDER OF THE GDR. FURTHER, THE US HOLDS THAT EAST BERLIN IS NOT LEGALLY THE CAPITAL OF THE GDR OR PART OF ITS SOVEREIGN TERRITORY.

3. WITH THE CAVEAT ABOVE, OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS IN THE CATEGORIES REQUESTED FOLLOWS:

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RESIDENT IN THE GDR AND IN EAST BERLIN:

- JOURNALISTS - 2
- BUSINESSMEN - 2
- STUDENTS - 15
- SEAMEN - 0

VISITING THE GDR AND EAST BERLIN ANNUALLY:

- JOURNALISTS - 12
- BUSINESSMEN - 160
- STUDENTS - 60
- SEAMEN - NONE TO EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE
- TOURISTS - 50,000 (THIS FIGURE IS A VERY ROUGH ESTIMATE BASED ON 10 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL GDR FIGURE FOR 1976 OF "VISITORS FROM NON-SOCIALIST STATES". EACH ENTRY - INCLUDING BERLIN CITY SECTOR CROSSINGS - IS COUNTED IN GDR STATISTICAL PRACTICE AS A VISITOR. THUS A BUS-LOAD OF AMERICAN TOURISTS FROM WEST BERLIN MAKING A TWO HOUR TOUR OF EAST BERLIN IS COUNTED AS "60 VISITORS TO THE GDR".)
- ANNUAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN OFFICIAL VISITORS TO THE GDR AND TO EAST BERLIN - 280 (INCLUDES CODELS AND LARGE GROUPS SUCH AS PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE INTER-CHANGE, 117 MEMBERS, WHO VISITED EAST BERLIN FOR THREE HOURS.) BOLEN

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